

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 09/603,132

Confirmation No.: 3538

Filed: June 23, 2000

For: DEVICE STRUCTURES INCLUDING RUTHENIUM SILICIDE DIFFUSION BARRIER LAYERS**Remarks**

Claims 1-44 having been canceled, claims 45-68 having been added, the pending claims are claims 45-68.

New claims 45-56 are generally supported, for example, by claims 27-38, now canceled. New claims 57-62 are generally supported, for example, by claim 27 (now canceled) and the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 15-19, and page 15, line 27 to page 16, line 8. New claims 63-68 are generally supported, for example, by claim 32 (now canceled) and the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 15-19, and page 15, line 27 to page 16, line 8.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

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It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 45-68 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted for
Vaartstra et al.

By
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February 4, 2004
Date

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Transmittal Letter and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 4 day of February, 2004, at 2:45pm (Central Time).

By: Sara E. Olson
Name: SARA E. OLSON